

ASBESTOS REMOVAL

NEW PROCEDURE USED ON MAJOR ASBESTOS HAZARD

A New Orleans Developer Stumbled on Asbestos—Then Abated the Problem With Such Skill and Imagination That the Project Attracted Praise from State Environmental Officials

When New Orleans real estate developer Gordon Kolb purchased an abandoned warehouse complex near the Mississippi River, he planned to demolish the structure and build a retail center on the site. What Kolb hadn't planned on was under-

taking one of the largest asbestos abatement projects ever attempted in the New Orleans area, a project for which he would later garner praise from state environmental officials.

The building, once the home of a National Gypsum factory, had until last year been used by International

Building Products, Inc., to manufacture asbestos cement and transite, a siding material composed of asbestos cement. Kolb knew that some asbestos would have to be removed before demolition could get underway. But no one had warned him of the extent of the problem.



Developer Gordon Kolb (standing) earned high marks for his cooperation with City State Environmental Officials. Here Kolb speaks to a group of officials including (clockwise from Kolb) Bob Kieferle (Insulation Technologies), Eddie Jackson (Lanier & Asso.), Dr. Shan Nong Chang (Lanier & Asso.), Bill Davis (La. DEQ), Cliff Channey (La. DEQ), Lloyd H. Gautreaux (Insulation Technologies), Mike Andry (N.O. Dept. of Health), Dr. Oscar Medrano (N.O. Dept. of Health), E. Kingsley Ikhirnwin (N.O. Dept. of Health), E. Sorrell Lanier (Lanier & Asso.), Stan Middleton (Gordon Kolb & Asso.).